

CLAIMS

1. A protective element, comprising a heat-generating member and a low-melting metal member on a substrate, in which the low-melting metal member is blown out by the heat generated by the heat-generating member, wherein there is provided a region in which the low-melting metal member is suspended over the underlying base, and when S (μm^2) is the surface area of a lateral cross section of the low-melting metal member between a pair of low-melting metal member electrodes sandwiching said region, and H (μm) is the height at which the suspended region is suspended, then $H/S \geq 5 \times 10^{-5}$.

2. The protective element according to Claim 1, wherein the upper surfaces of both of the pair of low-melting metal member electrodes protrude beyond the upper surface of an insulating layer which is the underlying base.

3. The protective element according to Claim 1, wherein there is provided a height differential between the upper surfaces of the pair of low-melting metal member electrodes, and the low-melting metal member is inclined between said pair of low-melting metal member electrodes.

4. The protective element according to Claim 1,
wherein an insulating spacer is provided between the pair
of low-melting metal member electrodes, and the upper
surface of said spacer protrudes beyond the upper surfaces
5 of the pair of low-melting metal member electrodes.